

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 2, 1836.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CLAY made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the message of the President of the 14th June, 1836, transmitting a report of the Secretary of State, in regard to depredations committed upon the persons and property of Messrs. Chouteau and Demun, under the authority of the Government of New Mexico, in 1817, have, according to order, had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report :

That it appears from the documents accompanying the message, that Messrs. Chouteau and Demun, whilst trading in 1817, under a regular license, upon the Arkansas, with a large adventure of merchandise, were forcibly seized, together with their merchandise, exceeding in value the sum of \$30,000, by a military force, under the authority of the Governor of New Mexico, conveyed as prisoners to Santa Fe, and there imprisoned and subjected to other injuries and indignities. Their merchandise was never restored to them.

This aggression was as unjustifiable as it was great. And it is due to the character of the United States that ample redress shall be obtained for the violation of its jurisdiction and soil, and the personal wrongs and injuries perpetrated upon their unoffending citizens, pursuing their lawful business.

Instructions were given many years ago from the Department of State, to the minister of the United States at Mexico, to demand that redress, from the Government of the United Mexican States, which now ought to be held responsible for it; but the committee are not informed whether it was made, or, if made, what answer was received to it.

The committee think that the demand ought to be made and pressed with an earnestness proportionate to the magnitude of the injury and the unreasonable delay which has arisen in making satisfaction for it. Until the issue of this experiment is known, the committee believe it would be inexpedient to indicate what else ought to be done for the reparation of the injuries of Messrs. Chouteau and Demun.

Resolved, That the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the message of the President.

